CFRN

CONTINUITY FORM

ADVERTISER McDougall Church

RELEASE TIMES _____ DATE _____

EDMONTON (CFRN) ANNOUNCER: Ladies and Gentlemen, sometimes you'll find in a town, or city, or almost any kind of community, a building that symbolizes the whole growth and spirit of that place ... a log shack, a sod-roofed shanty, a weathered, sagging old schoolhouse, or a church. Sometimes this community shrine is forgotten ... to the young it may be just another old building, to the aged it may just be "the old church", or the "old school" ... or the taken-for-granted dwelling place of a remembered friend.

But it may also happen that the shrine be remembered so strongly that it is one day rescued from its forlorn surroundings, restored to the appearance of its first youth, and given its rightful place in the town, or the city of which it is the very soul.

It is something like that which has happened in Edmonton. We have our Dominion Scenes microphone set up here in the tiny McDougall Church ... the first church built in this city. The sound of hammering you hear is the sound of the carpenter at work on the restoration ... a restoration that will make this pioneer church of the West a shrine to the courage of those early missionaries who worked so hard to bring education, religion, and civilization to this western country.

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CFRN

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RELEASE TIMES 2 DATE

Here beside me at the microphone is Dr. F.C. McCall, chairman of the Museum Committee of the McDougall Church restoration; Rev. A. K. McMinn, pastor of Edmonton McDougall Church, successor to the tiny building in which we are standing; and Mr. Robert Gard, Director of the Alberta Folklore and Local History Project.

Mr. Gard, who actually built this first Church?

GARD: It was built by George Millwaid McDougall, one of the sturdiest and best remembered pioneers. I believe he was the Fourth protestant missionary to this part of the west. Am I right, Dr. McCall?

McCALL: That's right. He followed Rundle and Woolsey.

ANN. How'd he happen to build the church?

GARD: Well, he'd established a Methodist mission at Victoria, or Pakan .. that's about forty miles down the North Saskatchewan River, and in the spring of 1871 he made a trip to Fort Edmonton to establish a mission here. Services had been held at the Fort, of course for 30 years previously to 1871. This church was begun the same year, in fact George McDougall really established the present city of Edmonton, since this church was the first public building outside of the old Fort.

ANN: George McDougall sounds like a mighty interesting figure. Dr. McCall, could you add anything?

McCALL: Yes .. George McDougall was an interesting character.

ANNOUNCER

CFRN

CONTINUITY FORM

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RELEASE TIMES 3 DATE

The establishment of this church seems to be a remarkable achievement, because in 1870-71 the West had one of the most terrible epidemics of small-pox this country ever saw. The Indians died by the hundreds. George McDougall went everywhere, tending the sick, and baptizing the dying. In fact, while he was absent on a mercy errand from his Victoria Mission, two of his own children died of the disease. Yet he was able to go right ahead and found this Edmonton mission and build this church.

ANN: Did George McDougall actually do the building?

GARD: He did part of it. A lot of the work was done by people from the Hudson's Bay Fort.

McDALL: Yes, they all took a turn, men and women alike. It was a real community enterprise. They wanted this church.

ANN: Who paid for the church? It must have cost some money, too.

GARD: It did. The final structure cost about three-thousand dollars. It was paid for by voluntary gifts, and in trade, and in labor by George McDougall and his family.

ANN: I wonder if we couldn't imagine that this is 1871, and that the old church is just being built ...

McCALL: That would be an interesting bit of imagination, if we could do it.

GARD: The scene'd be considerably changed ... sweep away the rest of the city of Edmonton, sweep away the

ANNOUNCER

CFRN

CONTINUITY FORM

ADVERTISER McDougall Church

RELEASE TIMES 4 DATE

Parliament buildings, and the bridges across the Saskatchewan ... imagine just the old fort down there a piece by the river; imagine an Indian camp on the flats where the municipal golf course is now ...

McCALL: You might imagine a few York boats tracking up from Battleford (if you want to make it summer time) and you'l about have the complete picture.

ANN: It sounds good to me. Let's go on.

GARD: I'd rather imagine the dedication of this church; it wasn't dedicated, incidentally until 1873. But just suppose you were around here then and heard the first church bell ringing ...

ANN: Is ~~that~~ the original bell ~~over there.~~ here?

McCALL: ~~That's it.~~ It certainly is. The bell was the gift of a Sunday School class in Ontario. Ring it. Let's hear how it sounds.

SOUND: BELL RINGING

ANN: That'd echo clear across the valley, wouldn't it? ...

GARD: Sure would ... and just imagine you see the congregation coming in .. the Hudson's Bay men, the half-breeds, the Indians ... some of 'em dressed up pretty gay, I'd say ... And there's George McDougall himself! The man with the sandy beard. The lady there near him is Mrs. McDougall, as courageous a pioneer as George. They'll make a fine thing of this church ... And what's George McDougall saying? He's pointing

ANNOUNCER

CFRN

CONTINUITY FORM

ADVERTISER McDougall Church

RELEASE TIMES 5 DATE

GARD (cont.) out there across the valley and ... Listen! He's saying: "Someday there'll be a city here. A great city! I feel proud ... proud that this church is the beginning of something that will grow and grow! That this church is a symbol of a new faith in the West ... "

ANN: Sya, where are we? In the past or the present?

GARD: I'm not quite sure. But I do know that this church has seen a lot of interesting events. You know, in 1882 they had a big fuss here over claim jumping. There hadn't been any legal survey, and squatters began jumping land claims along the river bank here. This church had considerable land attached to it, since George McDougall had staked the first claim for the missionary Society. Well, in 1882, a squatter decided to build a shack and take the best part of this church property ... I needn't tell you that the hardy citizens of early Edmonton wouldn't stand for that. They organized a Vigilance Committee, led by Frank Oliver, the great Canadian Statesman and founder of the Edmonton Bulletin. They turned out in a body and tossed the squatter's shack right into the river ... in fact, he was lucky not to have been in it. After that, the Saskatchewan River became know as the Vigilantes Depository. Yes sir, this olr log church has seen the whole history of modern Edmonton. It's

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CFRN CONTINUITY FORM

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RELEASE TIMES 6 DATE

GARD (cont.) high time it took its rightful place. In its new position as a museum, it still can teach us a lot.

ANN: It certainly can. And now we'd like to know a little more about how this church actually came to be restored. Doctor McMinn, as Chairman of the Building Committee of the McDougall Church Restoration, can you enlighten us?

MCMINN: I suppose the idea of the restoration really originated with the Board of Alberta College. You see, before the old church was moved out here facing 101st Street, it stood behind the College. Nobody ever saw it there, and it was a forgotten building, as you've said. There were some doubting Thomases, of course, who thought the old building wouldn't standing moving, but the pioneers built well. Some of us knew that it could be moved.

ANN: It's sturdy, all right. One thing that ineterests me is that the round surface of the logs is turned <u>inside</u>.

MCMINN: Yes, the inside of the church will be just as it was when it was first constructed. A little more than a year ago an actual restoration committee was formed with Dr. McCall, here as chairman. From that point we've gone right ahead. The whole restoration will cost about six-thousand dollars, and we've raised over five-thousand already.

ANNOUNCER

CFRN

CONTINUITY FORM

ADVERTISER McDougall Church

RELEASE TIMES 7 DATE

ANN: That's fine. Now, Dr. McCall, I understand this church is to be a sort of museum. What kind of objects do you hope to preserve here?

McCALL: Well, in the old days, this church was a real community institution. I might say that Anglicans and Presbyterians had their first service here, as well as the Salvation Army, and the German Baptists. Our restoration committee is composed of pretty much all the denominations, and we want treasured objects here from all of them. We have the first bell, of course, the communion cup first used here, and George McDougall's Bible. We want portraits of some of the leaders of the other early churches ... like Dr. McQueen, the great Presbyterian Minister, and Father Lacombe, the Oblate Missionary. We have already been presented with a splendid portrait of Father Lacombe. We are having portraits of George MacDougall and Mrs. McDougall specially painted. The Edmonton Art Club is assisting us. We hope to make the museum a tribute to the Church and the School, since the first school in Edmonton was held in this Church.

MCMINN: It's certainly high time that many of our historical Western shrines are marked and preserved. This Church should stand as a real link between the courageous past, and a present and future, we trust, may be filled with the same kind of faith.

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CFRN

CONTINUITY FORM

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RELEASE TIMES 8 DATE

ANN: Well, it seems to me to be a wonderful thing you are doing here ... Say, before we leave old McDougall Church, could I hear that old bell again?

SOUND: BELL RINGING

ANN: (cont) There's a bell that means a lot to the City of Edmonton, and to the whole West. And may there be many more such bells ringing right across Canada. Thank you Dr. McMinn, Dr. McCall, and Mr. Gard ... And good luck, old McDougall Church!

SOUND: HAMMERING .... FADE

ANNOUNCER

EDMONTON (CFRN) ANNOUNCHER: Ladies and Gentlemen, sometimes you'll find in a town, or city, or almost any kind of community, a building that symbolizes the whole growth and spirit of that place --- a log shack, a sod-roofed shanty, a weathered, sagging old schoolhouse, or a church. Sometimes this community shrine is forgotten . . . to the young it may be just another old building, to the aged it may just be "the old church", or the "old school". . . or the taken-for-granted dwelling place of a remembered friend.

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BERRY: That's right. He followed Rundle and Woolsey.

ANNOUNCER: How'd he happen to build the church?

GARD: Well, he'd established a Methodist mission at Victoria, or Peken -- that's about forty miles down the North Saskatchewan River, and in the spring of 1871 he made a trip to Fort Edmonton to establish a mission here. This church was begun the same year, in fact George McDougall really established the present city of Edmonton, since this church was the first public building outside of the old Fort.

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BERRY: Yes, George McDougall was an interesting character. The establishment of this church seems to me a remarkable achievement, because in 1870-71 the West had one of the most terrible epidemics of smallpox this country ever saw. The Indians died by the hundreds. George McDougall went everywhere, tending the sick, and baptizing the dying. In fact, while he was absent on a mercy errand from his Victoria Mission, two of his own children died of the disease. Yet he was able to go right ahead and found this Edmonton mission and build this church.

ANNOUNCER: Did Geroge McDougall actually do the building?

GARD: He did part of it. A lot of the work was done by people from the Hudson's Bay Fort.

BERRY: Yes, they all took a turn, men and women alike. It was a real community enterprise. They wanted this church.

ANNOUNCER: Who paid for the church? It must have cost some money, too.

GARD: It did. The final structure cost about three-thousand dollars. It was paid for by voluntary gifts, and in trade, and in labor by George McDougall and his family.

ANNOUNCER: I wonder if we couldn't imagine that this is 1871, and that the old church is just being built . . .

BERRY: That'd be an interesting bit of imagination, if we could do it.

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GARD: Sure would. . . . and just imagine you see the congregation coming in -- the Hudson's Bay men, the half-breeds, the Indians . . . some of 'em dressed up pretty gay, I'd say. . .

GARD (cont.) And there's George McDougall himself! . . the man with the black beard. The lady there near him is Mrs. McDougall, as courageous a pioneer as George. They'll make a fine thing of this church. . . . And what's George McDougall saying? He's pointing out there across the valley and . . . Listen! He's saying: "Someday there'll be a city here. A great city. I feel proud . . . proud that this church is the beginning of something that will grow and grow! That this church is a symbol of a new faith in the West . . . "

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GARD (cont.) After that, the Saskatchewan River became known as the Vigilantes Depository. . . Yes sir, this old log church has seen the whole history of modern Edmonton. It's high time it took its rightful place. In its new position as a museum, it still can teach us a lot.

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MCMINN: I suppose the idea of the restoration really originated with the Board of Alberta College. You see, before the old church was moved out here facing 101st Street, it stood behind the College. Nobody ever saw it there, and it was a forgotten building, as you've said. There were some doubting Thomases, of course, who thought the old building wouldn't stand moving, but the pioneers built well. Some of us knew that it could be moved.

ANNOUNCER: It's sturdy, all right. One thing that interests me is that the round surface of the logs is turned <u>inside</u>.

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SOUND: HAMMERING FADE

Proposed broadcast / Dominion Scenes"
re; McDougall Church, Edmonton.

~~General Opening~~ to Edmonton Announcer ~~Speaking~~ from the Old McDougall Church. ~~Sound of hammering in background~~.

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end